

CONFERENCES

24TH ANNUAL EASTERN WINTER DERMATOLOGY CONFERENCE

January 18-21, 2013

The Stoweflake Hotel & Spa, Stowe, VT

The conference is intended for dermatologists, although primary care physicians with a special interest in dermatology are welcome to attend. The course is designed to provide high-level continuing education for dermatologists, keeping them abreast of new and exciting findings in basic science, clinical dermatology and dermatologic therapy. We are fortunate this year to have an outstanding group of lecturers speaking on a wide range of clinical applications.

For more information go to: <http://www.uvm.edu/medicine/cme/?Page=winterderm.html>.

NNEPQIN WINTER MEETING: PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF OBSTETRICAL INFECTIONS, EFFECTIVE PHONE TRIAGE AND DEBRIEFING CRITICAL INCIDENTS

January 8, 2013

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH

For more information go to: http://ccehs1.dartmouth-hitchcock.org/eventinfo_8382.html.

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Basin Harbor Club and Resort, Vergennes, Vt.
October 19, 2013

Vermont Medical Society 20th Annual Meeting

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VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 1457
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THE GREEN MOUNTAIN PHYSICIAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY

"Not for ourselves do we labor"

Nov./Dec.
2012

VMS FOUNDATION RELEASES REVEALING CHRONIC PAIN CARE AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE REPORT

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The Vermont Medical Society Education and Research Foundation last month released Safe and Effective Treatment of Chronic Pain in Vermont (<http://bit.ly/W7EyUV>), a whitepaper detailing the many challenges health care providers face in providing safe and effective treatment to persons with chronic pain in Vermont and the role those challenges play in prescription drug abuse.

Developed through structured interviews with nearly 40 professionals involved in the treatment of chronic pain and addiction, the report aims to influence public policy by recommending concrete improvements to the care system in the state, including:

- Creating a single set of recommendations for treating pain in Vermont;
- Improving the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System;
- Educating the public to expect best medical practices;
- Evaluating the approach of professional oversight;
- Differentiating the role of law enforcement from the role of care giver; and,
- Discouraging payment policies that encourage pill prescribing.

The report captures the frustrations of many in the health care provider community, who in an environment of increased emphasis on prescription drug abuse prevention often find themselves torn between ensuring that their patients do not suffer undue pain and reducing the flow of prescription drugs diverted to illicit uses. A primary care physician interviewed for the report said that the treatment of non-malignant chronic pain is the "most difficult problem that primary care practitioners have to deal with," while another called dealing with drug-seeking behavior one of the most unpleasant aspects of medical practice, bemoaning the extent to which doctors must function "as judge and jury" when dealing with pain complaints.

One of the most revealing insights uncovered by the report is how reimbursement for care may be unintentionally fueling over-prescribing of narcotics and the addictive and illicit uses that result from it.

"One very big issue is how the insurance companies are actually driving a lot of the dependence on opioids," said one primary care physician in the report. "For example, research shows that for chronic, non-specific low back pain, chiropractic manipulation, acupuncture and massage are all helpful. Yet many insurance companies won't cover these. But they will cover the Percocet, which has not been proven to be helpful in research."

Another key finding of the report is the health care community's strong support of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System coupled with its desire to see a number of improvements to it. Among the improvements suggested by providers are providing real-time access to prescription information, linking the system to other health information technologies, and including Veterans Affairs and out-of-state prescriptions.

The whitepaper was developed by the Foundation with support of the Vermont Medical Society, the Vermont Health Department's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (ADAP) and with funding from The Physicians Foundation and Purdue Pharma. The full report is available online at <http://bit.ly/W7EyUV>.

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www.VTMD.org



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Norman Ward, M.D.

It was with a great sense of honor that I was inaugurated as the President of the Vermont Medical Society for its 200th year at the annual meeting in Woodstock in October [see related story on page 3]. I took that opportunity to read some passages from the earliest documents of the society which portray the profound pioneer spirit of its founders. The society was a truly representative body of members of the various county medical societies in those days of 1813 when getting to a statewide meeting was arduous. Thankfully, today all are welcome.

At that time, the local medical societies had responsibility to test students and confer licensure as a physician. The state body was an appeal option for aggrieved applicants.

Today, the process of licensing and credentialing is so complex that the judgment of the character and wisdom of an applicant involves harvesting data practically from a lifetime – a more thorough and fairer process, but perhaps not ultimately better than the intimate knowledge of a teacher.

The early society was also important as a means to disseminate medical knowledge with presentation of papers on treatment approaches printed in the proceedings. That function has not diminished, and at this year's meeting it was continued with excellent presentations on palliative care, trans-catheter aortic valve implantation, and utility of statewide physician leadership groups.

We as a profession are truly at the crossroads of old and new in reference to health care reform. No matter what emerges as to methods to account for the value of services rendered, we must not lose sight of the fact that integrity, sacrifice and dedication are the traits that really matter. The awards presentations [related story page 4] at this year's banquet (as they always are) were poignant; a posthumous recognition of Harry Rowe who practiced into his 90's but perhaps most importantly holds the record for years of service in the United States on his local school board; Joyce Dobbertin's contributions at NVRH Corner Medical in Lyndonville earned her Physician of the Year recognition but it was the warm humor of her nominating colleague that spoke loudly of her dedicated service; Virginia Hood honored with the Distinguished Service award, having just finished leading the American College of Physicians from little old Vermont; Rutland State Senator Kevin Mullin was recognized for leadership in getting vaccination legislation passed in our citizen government; and Toni Kaeding, RN, whose leadership of the Freeman Foundation was so beneficial for so many physicians and nurses in our state. I felt so fortunate to part of the fabric of an organization that picks such great people for recognition from a sea of equally deserving individuals in our state.

Our society's eight resolutions [related story page 6] to guide legislative and public policy input this year span topics from educational debt, electronic records, reimbursement for at a distance care, malpractice reform, interdisciplinary collaboration, humanizing electronic medical record use, optimum use of the state pharmacy monitoring system, and battling childhood obesity. While these documents are of excellent quality and clarity it is the democratic method by which they are crafted and revised that should really make us proud. I look forward to using the content of those documents to advocate for all of you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Norman Ward, M.D., VMS President



EVANS NAMED PRESIDENT AND CEO OF VITL

John K. Evans, MHA, FACHE, has been appointed the president and chief executive officer of Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc.

Evans has extensive experience in developing and implementing health information exchanges around the country, having worked as a consultant to the industry since 2006. As president of Strategic Alliance Advisors, Inc., d/b/a s2a, Evans provided leadership for statewide HIE initiatives in Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, and New Hampshire, as well as regional HIE projects in New York and northern Michigan. His firm's work included assisting both rural and urban HIEs with project management, technical architecture development, vendor selection, sustainability planning, and developing security and privacy policies.

Before starting his consulting firm, Evans was deeply involved in Vermont's efforts to develop a statewide health information exchange, as senior vice president and chief technology officer at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington. He also served as the first chair of VITL's board of directors, when the public-private partnership became an independent non-profit in 2005.

Evans earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont, and his master's degree in health administration from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, a member of UVM's Vermont Regional Board, and is a retired Army officer. He and his wife Ellen reside in Charlotte, Vt.

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT COLLEGE OF MEDICINE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Health Services Researcher (Assistant/Associate Professor), Department of Pediatrics

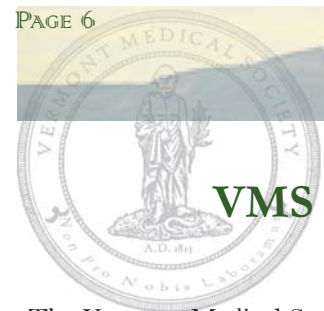
The University of Vermont College of Medicine (UVM/COM) is seeking a faculty member at the Assistant or Associate Professor level in the Department of Pediatrics on the Research Scholar Pathway to serve a health services researcher with expertise in delivery systems design, research and evaluation. Qualified candidates will have expertise in health services research, in analysis and evaluation of health care delivery and policy innovations such as those now being implemented state-wide in Vermont in both adult and pediatric health care. Preferred candidates will have a doctoral degree in health services research or a related field, experience in utilization of large integrated databases for research purposes, experience with federally funded research, and a track record of funding and scholarly publications. Demonstrated accomplishments in research mentorship are also valued.

Health Services Researcher (Assistant Professor), Department of Pediatrics

The University of Vermont College of Medicine (UVM/COM) is seeking a Department of Pediatrics faculty member at the Assistant Professor level (Research Scholar Pathway) with expertise in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) health services delivery systems design, research and evaluation. Qualified candidates will have knowledge and experience in conducting MCH analyses and evaluation of pediatrics-related health care delivery and policy innovations such as those now being implemented state-wide in Vermont. Preferred candidates will have a doctoral degree in health services research or a related field and have experience in pediatric health services research accompanied by scholarly publications.

Applicants are encouraged to visit UVM/COM (www.med.uvm.edu) website for further information. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and applications from women, veterans, and people of diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds are encouraged. The University is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community through their research, teaching, and/or service. Applicants are requested to include in their cover letter information about how they will further this goal.

Interested candidates should send their Curriculum Vitae and letter outlining their interests to Judith.Shaw@uvm.edu or you can apply at www.uvmjobs.com.



VMS ADOPTS NEW RESOLUTIONS, SETS HEALTH CARE PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES FOR 2013

The Vermont Medical Society members adopted eight policy resolutions during its annual meeting that address a number of issues important to the state's physicians, including the rising cost of care, medical liability reform, battling childhood obesity, and increasing usage of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System.

The resolutions will form the basis of the organization's 2013 public policy efforts on behalf of its 2,000 physician members. The adopted resolutions were:

Physician Stewardship of Health Care – The resolution proposes, among other things, that VMS promote, and encourage Vermont specialty society chapters to endorse, Choosing Wisely, a new national effort that encourages physicians to identify five tests or procedures commonly used in their field whose necessity should be questioned and discussed.

Cost of Medical Education – Citing the rising cost of undergraduate medical education as well as the oncoming shortage of physicians in Vermont, the resolution calls on VMS to work with various stakeholders, including the Green Mountain Care Board, Administration and General Assembly to address loan repayment and scholarship for medical education. Specific actions proposed by the resolution include evaluating the feasibility of changes to medical education in Vermont, increased loan repayment and support of innovative MD curriculum.

Collaboration Among Physicians and Other Health Care Professionals – Proposes that VMS work with the Administration, licensing authorities and professional associations to ensure passage of transparency legislation and/or regulations that require patients to be informed of health care professionals' license type.

Electronic Health Records (EHR) and the Physician/Patient Relationship – VMS will create an EHR working group to research the experience of Vermont physicians with respect to the impact of EHRs on their practices and report their findings to the VMS Council.

Medical Liability Reforms – Citing the Hsiao report indicating that the fear of lawsuits leads to defensive medical practices such as the ordering of additional tests, the resolution calls for VMS to urge the General Assembly to enact legislation modeled on liability reforms passed in Massachusetts.

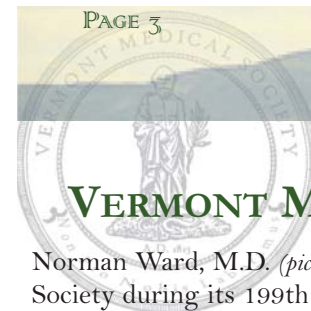


Reimbursement to Physicians for Providing Face-to-Face Care – The resolution calls on VMS to urge the General Assembly, Green Mountain Care Board and the Department of Vermont Health Access to adopt policies for all payers that reimburse physicians for non face-to-face care, such as consultations delivered via e-mail and phone.

Patient Incentives – Pointing to the change in health care from a "disease-centered model" toward a "patient-centered model" as well as rising costs and negative health impacts associated with unhealthy lifestyle choices, the resolution calls for greater personal responsibility by individuals in maintaining their own health and the use of health incentives to get and remain healthy.

Use and Improvement of the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System – The resolution calls on VMS to support and encourage physicians to register and use the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System. Additionally, it calls for improvements to the system that will increase its use and effectiveness.

The full text of these resolutions can be found on VTMD.org.



VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY TAPS NEW OFFICERS

Norman Ward, M.D. (pictured below center), was named president of the Vermont Medical Society during its 199th annual meeting held Oct. 27, at the Woodstock Inn in Woodstock, Vt. Also during the meeting, members elected Daniel Walsh, M.D., and David Coddaira, M.D., president-elect and vice president, respectively, and re-elected Howard Schapiro, M.D., secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Ward is medical director of case management at Fletcher Allen Health Care and a physician at its South Burlington Family Practice clinic. He is also a governor-appointed member of the Clinical Utilization Review Board (CURB), which is tasked by the Department of Health Access with examining medical services provided under the state's Medicaid program in order to ensure adherence to current clinical best practices and identify opportunities for increased efficiencies.

An associate professor at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, he earned his M.D. at Brown University Medical School and completed his residency at the University of Rochester.

"It is an absolute honor to be entrusted by my colleagues with the leadership of the Society and I take the responsibilities that come with it very seriously," said Dr. Ward. "I look forward to working alongside the state's physicians during the coming year to ensure that our voices, and those of the patients we care for, are heard and valued."



Dr. Walsh (pictured above right) is a Norwich, Vt., resident and vascular surgeon at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. A professor of surgery at Dartmouth Medical School, he earned his M.D. at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and completed his residency at the University of Michigan Medical Center. He joined the DHMC staff in 1987.

Dr. Coddaira (pictured above left) is a family physician at the Morrisville Family Health Center and a recipient of the 2009 Vermont Medical Society's Physician of the Year award. He earned his M.D. at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and completed his residency at Fletcher Allen.



Dr. Schapiro (left) is an anesthesiologist at Fletcher Allen and the chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. He received his bachelor of arts in biology and masters of science in natural sciences/epidemiology from the State University of New York at Buffalo and his medical degree at UVM.



Vermont Medical Society

LEADERSHIP

Norman Ward, M.D.
President

Daniel Walsh, M.D.
President - Elect

David Coddaira, M.D.
Vice President

Howard Schapiro, M.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Victor Pisanelli, M.D.
Immediate Past President

STAFF

Paul Harrington
Executive Vice President

Madeleine Mongan, Esq.
Deputy Exec. Vice President

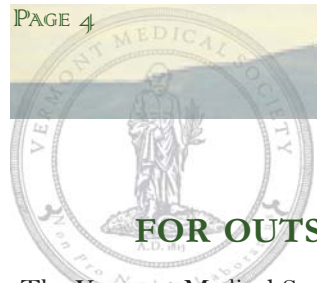
Stephanie Winters
Operations Director

Colleen Magne
Business Manager

Justin Campfield
Communications Specialist

Suzanne Parker, M.D.
VPHM Medical Director

Cyrus Jordan, M.D.
VMSERF Administrator

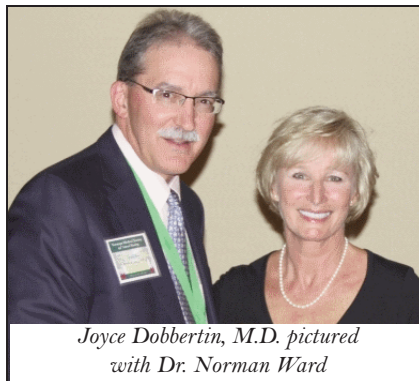


FIVE VERMONTERS HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HEALTH CARE AND COMMUNITY

The Vermont Medical Society recognized five Vermonters for their outstanding contributions to the health and well being of the state's residents during its 199th annual meeting.

The Physician of the Year award was presented to Joyce Dobbertin, M.D. (pictured right with Dr. Norman Ward), for the exemplary and respectful care that she provides her patients in the Northeast Kingdom. Dr. Dobbertin has been instrumental in the development of the St. Johnsbury Blueprint program, as well as an oncology pilot program and the creation of a rural family practice residency program that aims to improve access to care for many of the state's most vulnerable populations.

The Physician of the Year Award is granted annually to a physician licensed in the state of Vermont who has demonstrated: outstanding performance in the quality of care given to his/her patients; skillful and compassionate patient care; and, dedication to the welfare of his patients in accordance with accepted principles of good medical practice.



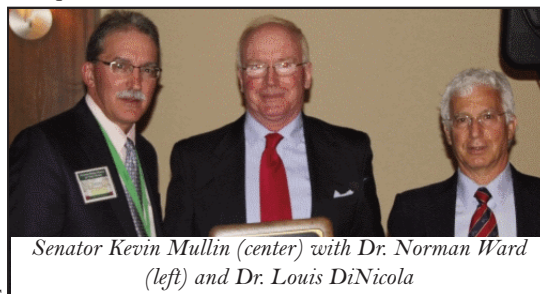
Joyce Dobbertin, M.D. pictured with Dr. Norman Ward



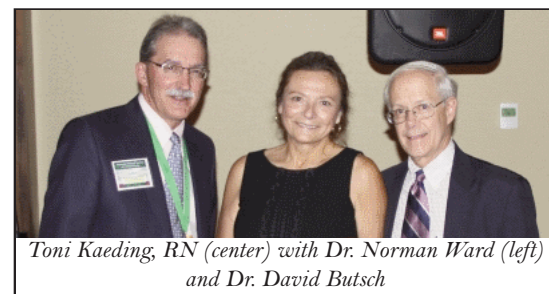
The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Virginia L. Hood, M.D. (left) A nephrologist at Fletcher Allen Health Care, in 2012 Dr. Hood concluded a term as president of the American College of Physicians, the nation's second largest physician organization. The Society commended her for representing the entire Vermont physician community in a truly admirable fashion and serving as a compelling advocate for the welfare of the public and its access to high-quality health care services.

The Distinguished Service Award, the highest award VMS can bestow upon one of its members, is given on the basis of meritorious service in the science and art of medicine and for outstanding contributions to the medical profession, its organizations, and the welfare of the public.

Senator Kevin J. Mullin received the Citizen of the Year Award, which is presented to a non-physician who has made a significant contribution to the health of the people of Vermont. In honoring Sen. Mullin, VMS cited his advocacy of S. 199, a bill that supported the elimination of the philosophical exemption to immunizations, during this year's legislation session. The Society commended him for his efforts to improve the state's immunization rates, promote good health and save lives.



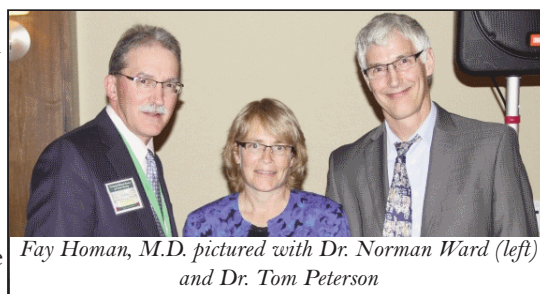
Senator Kevin Mullin (center) with Dr. Norman Ward (left) and Dr. Louis DiNicola



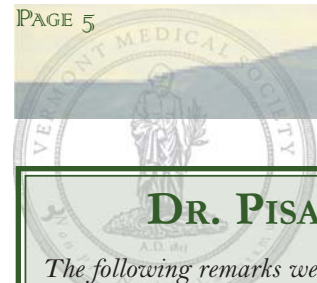
Toni Kaeding, RN (center) with Dr. Norman Ward (left) and Dr. David Butsch

Toni H. Kaeding, MS, RN, was presented with the Founders' Award, which is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, vision, and achievement in improving the health of Vermonters and all Americans. Kaeding was honored for contributions to the nursing workforce in the state. She authored research that identified a nursing shortage in Vermont, and won a \$3 million foundation grant that provided scholarships to the state's top nursing students. As an adjunct assistant professor of Nursing at the University of Vermont, Kaeding served as administrator of the program, which has spurred increased nursing school enrollment in the state.

The Physician Award for Community Service was given posthumously to Harry M. Rowe, M.D., in recognition for his outstanding record of community service, most exemplified by the 61 years he served on his local Wells River school board. Dr. Rowe was a founding member of the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Family Practice and former president of the Society. A Rotarian for 60 years, Dr. Rowe sang in the North County Chorus for 64 years and earned a Bronze star for meritorious service as a Captain in the 303rd Medical Battalion, 78th Infantry division during World War II. The Physician Award for Community Services is granted annually to a physician who has compiled an outstanding record of community service, which, apart from his or her specific identification as a physician, reflects well on the profession.



Fay Homan, M.D. pictured with Dr. Norman Ward (left) and Dr. Tom Peterson



DR. PISANELLI THANKS MEMBERS FOR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

The following remarks were given by Victor Pisanelli, Jr., M.D., just prior to turning the leadership of the Society over to newly appointed president Norm Ward, M.D., during the 199th VMS annual meeting.

Despite all that is going on, we need to keep our focus on our most important responsibility; the doctor-patient relationship. External forces are pulling at this from every direction, but we can't lose sight of our most important job; working with our patients to keep them healthy or to help heal their illness.

Despite the disparate nature of all of the resolutions that we've just discussed, their common goal is to support physicians in their practice of medicine, to help ease the regulatory, legal, financial, and electronic burdens that we all face every day.

Our Vermont Medical Society serves as a forum for all of us to get together, to share our experiences, and to support each other in dealing with all of the external forces swirling around us. Vermont is a wonderful place to grow up in, to raise a family, and to practice our chosen profession. Let us continue to work together to maintain the environment that will allow us all to continue to practice medicine to the best of our abilities.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Paul for all he and his staff do for the members of VMS, and I want to thank all of you for the honor and privilege of serving as your president for the past year.

Thank you very much.

Victor Pisanelli, Jr., M.D.

Immediate Past President

SAVE THE DATE!

for the

VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY 200TH ANNUAL MEETING

the weekend of

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2013

being held at

BASIN HARBOR CLUB VERGENNES, VT

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION AND MAKE SURE TO

SAVE THE DATE!

UVM MEDICAL STUDENT AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP



The Vermont Medical Society's Education and Research Foundation has awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to University of Vermont College of Medicine student Vanessa Patten.

A third-year medical student originally from New Hampshire, Patten earned a Bachelor's of Animal Science from UVM in 2009 and hopes to practice family medicine in Vermont. She is the vice president of the College of Medicine student council, a student ambassador and a former varsity cross country runner. Her extensive volunteer service includes counseling Vermont High school students aspiring to enter the medical profession, working as a high school math tutor, teaching health lessons at local elementary schools, and organizing volunteer work and co-directing a girls health and fitness program at the Burlington Boys and Girls Club.

Each year the Vermont Medical Society Education and Research Foundation gives one or more scholarships to medical students who are committed to practicing medicine in Vermont and caring for Vermonters. The scholarship program was created to encourage young doctors to return to Vermont after completing their residency training.